

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 were pending in the present application before this amendment as set forth above. Among them, claims 4-10 were examined and claims 1-3 were withdrawn as directed to non-elected subject matter. By this amendment, claim 4 is amended, and claims 1-3, 7 and 8 are canceled.

In the December 30, 2011 Office Action, claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (US 6,151,051). Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of Wotton et al. (US 6,390,618).

However, the Examiner indicated that claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant appreciates very much the Examiner's careful review of the instant application and allowability of claim 8.

In response, as set forth above, applicant has amended claim 4 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 8, which makes amended claim 4 allowable now. Further, claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 depend from now amended allowable claim 4, and thus are allowable as well.

Claim 1-3, 7 and 8 have been canceled.

No new matter is added.

It is now believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/599,565
Amdt. Dated March 21, 2011
Reply to Office Action of December 30, 2010

Docket No.: 22173-70313

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing Response place this application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call the undersigned at 404-495-3678.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency of fees that may be required, and credit of any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3537.

Respectfully submitted,

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